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HULL'S GEOLOGICAL AGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.[1]—A quarto of 12 pages illustrated by 3 sketch maps and several sectional drawings. The author opposes the doctrine of the permanency of oceans and continents, held by Dana, Le Conte and Dr. Wallace, and cites facts derived from observations in the region of the North Atlantic to uphold Lyell's views of the repeated interchange of oceans and continents. He refers the date of the oceanic condition of the Atlantic area, and of the continental conditions of Eastern America and Western Europe to the close of the Palæozoic epoch.

BOULENGER'S REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.[2]—The position of this group of islands, on the limits of two great zoological districts, renders the study of its fauna of special interest, as it is the point where many of the Papuasian and Polynesian forms intermingle. The author gives a list of all the species hitherto found in the Solomon group, with notes on the general habitats. It includes nineteen reptiles and nine batrachians, some of which are restricted to these islands. The plates are admirable in every respect; the drawing is spirited, most of the batrachians especially so. The most remarkable discovery recorded is that of the genus Ceratobatrachus Boul, a form which represents in the Firmisternial Salientia the Hemiphractus of the Arciferous line. The parallel is shown in the mandibular teeth and the huge dermo-ossification of the head. This discovery nearly completes the parallels between the Arcifera and the Firmisternia.

BENNETT AND MURRAY'S CRYPTOGAMIC BOTANY.[3]—As stated in the Introduction, "No general hand-book of cryptogamic botany has appeared in the English language since the Rev. M. J. Berkley's in 1857." In this period, almost one-third of a century, since the preparation of that famous and useful book, cryptogamic botany "has gone through little less than a revolution." The present work is an attempt to bring within reach of botanists an acquaintance with the present state of our knowledge of this branch of science. How fully the authors have succeeded trial alone will tell. That they have made a useful book is evident at a mere glance.

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[1] On the Geological Age of the North Atlantic Ocean. By Edward Hull, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., Director of the Geol. Sur. of Ireland. Extract from the Scientific Trans. Roy. Dublin Soc., Vol. III., 1885.

[2] On the Reptiles and Batrachians of the Solomon Islands. By G. A. Boulenger, F.Z.S. Extract from Trans. Zool. Soc., Vol. XII., 1886.

[3] *A Handbook of Cryptogamic Botany.* By Alfred W. Bennett, M.A., B.Sc., F.L.S., Lecturer on Botany at St. Thomas' Hospital; and George Murray, F.L.S., Senior Assistant, Department of Botany, British Museum, and Examiner in Botany, Glasgow University. With 378 Illustrations. London: Longmans, Guerny and Co.; and New York: 15 East 16th Street. 1889. All rights reserved. 12mo, pp. viii., 473.

The general plan of the work may be made out from the following general subdivisions of the subject, which correspond to unnumbered chapters in the book, viz.: Vascular Cryptogamia; Muscineæ; Characeæ; Algæ; Fungi; Mycetozoa; Protophyta. As will be seen, the work begins with the higher forms and passes to the lower, a plan defended by the authors by the statement that "to the general student 'from the known to the unknown' is a very sound principle." They say, however, that, "had our purpose been to construct, theoretically, a genealogical tree for the lower forms of vegetable life, the former course (commencing at the bottom) must necessarily have been pursued, and in the labor in favor of proceeding from the simple to the more complicated types." From which one would infer that this book is useful only to the general student. It will, on the contrary, prove a useful handbook for the laboratory student, in spite of its erroneous plan. Had our authors commenced with the lower plants, and worked up from them, they would have made their book still more useful, not only to the scientific student, but in according to our observation, to the "general student" as well.

Again, it is seen that there is here a partial "reversion to the time-honored division" of the lower plants, whereby the Algæ and the Fungi are recognized as natural groups. It is only a partial reversion, however, and botanists of the old school will scarcely recognize in the modern groups, the older ones of the same names. The Algæ suffer the loss of the Characeæ, the Protococcoideæ, the Diatomaceæ, and the Cyanophyceæ, while the Fungi lose the Myxomycetes, the Acvasieæ, and the Schizomycetes, and are augmented by having swallowed bodily the whole of the Lichens.

A feature of the work, which is to be especially commended, is the very general Anglicizing of terms; *e. g. sporange* for *sporangium; archegone* for *archegonium; antherid* for *antheridium*, etc., etc.

The amount of space assigned to each group is as follows: Vascular Cryptogamy, 122; Muscineæ, 40; Algæ (in the widest sense), 174; Fungi (in the widest sense), 110. Berkeley's proportions were better; he gave to each of his groups space as follows: Filicales, 58 pages; Muscales, 77; Fungales, 185; Algales, 156. It may be remarked also that Berkeley's order is the reverse of that adopted in the book under consideration.

There are many points which might be critically discussed in this book; naturally so, because its enforced brevity compels a summary treatment, in which the names of things are not fully given. But we have sufficiently indicated the general character of the work, which will unquestionably be very useful.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

BASTIN'S BOTANY.[1]—This book is a revised and enlarged edition of Professor Bastin's "Elements of Botany," which appeared a couple of years ago. The enlargement has greatly improved what was a good book to start with, and in the volume before us we have a nicely gotten up and useful work. Following in part the older ideas, toward which there is now an evident return among botanists, the author devotes thirteen chapters to Organography, which is, in fact, the organography of the flowering plants alone. The student will be likely (unless corrected by his teacher) to get somewhat warped notions as to the vegetative organs, and the organs of reproduction in the vegetable kingdom, from these 120 pages of introductory matter.

Then follow three chapters (aggregating about 100 pages) devoted to vegetable histology, in which the cell, plant tissues, and tissue systems are discussed. About 40 pages of Vegetable Physiology follow, and the remainder of the book is taken up with a brief survey of the vegetable kingdom, from the Myxomycetes to the Spermaphytes, and two brief chapters on the succession of vegetable life. There is also a glossary of about 30 pages, and a full index.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

DYER'S FOLK-LORE OF PLANTS.[2]—This is not a botanical book, unless we interpret liberally that very liberal definition of botany which declares it to include "every inquiry about

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[1] *College Botany*, including Organography, Vegetable Histology, Vegetable Physiology, and Vegetable Taxonomy, with a brief account of the Succession of Plants in Geologic Time, and a glossary of Botanical Leaves. By Edson S. Bastin, A.M., F.R.M.S., Professor of Botany, Materia Medica and Microscopy in the Chicago College of Pharmacy. Chicago: G. P. Engelhard & Co., 1889. 8vo, pp. xvi. 451, with 579 Figures in the text.

[2] *The Folk-Lore of Plants.* By T. F. Thiselton Dyer. New-York: D. Appleton & Company. 1889. 12mo, 328 pp.